

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) A process for preparing 3-chloro-5-nitrotoluene, which comprises reacting 2-methyl-4-nitroaniline with a chlorinating agent in a neutral condition to obtain 2-chloro-4-nitro-6-methylaniline and deaminating the 2-chloro-4-nitro-6-methylaniline to obtain 3-chloro-5-nitrotoluene.

2. (Original) The process as claimed in Claim 1, in which the reaction of 2-methyl-4-nitroaniline with a chlorinating agent is carried out in a solvent containing neither acid nor base.

3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the chlorinating agent is t-butylhypochlorite.

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, in which the deamination is carried out by adding sodium nitrite to the reactant mixture adjusted between room temperature and 0°C, allowing the reaction mixture to stand at an elevated temperature and then decreasing the temperature and keeping it at a temperature of 40 to 50°C.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 3-chloro-5-methylphenylisocyanate, which comprises reducing 3-chloro-5-nitrotoluene obtained by any process as defined in ~~Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 and reacting the resulting product with triphosgene.